



Australia Indonesia Association (ACT) Inc.
PO Box 7252 Duffy ACT 2611

57th Annual President's Report 2021-2022

This is 57th year in the ACT that AIA has been successful in achieving our aim:

To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the people of Indonesia

This AIA (ACT) financial year has been another challenging 12 months due to the COVID-19 virus again causing disruptions. Despite these challenges AIA has continued successfully due to the wonderful commitment and flexibility of the committee, and we were able to hold a very successful 2022 Winter Dinner. The Indonesian Embassy has again provided greatly appreciated support. We are indebted to Bapak Siswo Pramono and all the Indonesian Embassy staff members who are always extremely helpful and support AIA.

For the AIA (ACT) financial year 2021-2022 the financial membership was:

- ✓ Life Members: 3 (Yetty Daly, Bill Rhemrev and Ike Supomo who was inducted in 2022)
- ✓ Single Memberships paid: 53
- ✓ Family Memberships paid: 18
- ✓ Student Membership paid: 5
- ✓ Thus, a total adult membership, including Embassy corporate staff and families, of approximately 140.

ACTIVITIES: Over the last year AIA (ACT) conducted and participated in a greatly reduced number of activities due to COVID. The main activities since the 56th AGM were:

- ✓ AIA held a very enjoyable 2021 End of Year Function at the Lemongrass Thai Restaurant Woden, on 5 December 2021.
- ✓ AIA held an interesting Trivia lunch at Kingston Hotel on 20 March 2022.
- ✓ AIA held a farewell dinner for Pak Ghofar and Ibu Dian at Pho Phu Quoc Vietnamese Restaurant in Dickson on 23 July 2022.
- ✓ AIA held a very successful Winter Dinner at the Deakin Sports Club on 20 August 2022.

After having to cancel the two previous years due to COVID lockdowns, it was wonderful on 20 August 2022 to again hold an AIA-ACT Winter Dinner (WD22). 112 attended WD22 at the Deakin Sports Club and it was a very successful Gala event. The evening was masterfully MC'd by Ibu Shinta Benilda and started with a Javanese Gamelan Group consisting of Pak Gede, Paj Ragil & Pak Bernando playing as guests arrived. The three course dinner was Indonesian themed and the band for the night was called JoGed and provided great singing by Joice Nababan and music by Pak Gede Raida. The Borobudur Dance Group, led by Ibu Ifa, provided two wonderful dances that displayed the richness and range of Indonesian culture. The surprise activity for the night was a great success when all the attendees enjoyed learning to play Angklung with a lesson and playing conducted by Pak Rubby. It was wonderful to have DUBES Bapak Siswo Pramono provide a very informative speech about the Australia Indonesia Relationship and focus upon the recent developments and the opportunities ahead. Thanks also to all who provided raffle prizes, especially Indo Café and Ibu Yetty for the great main Raffle prize and Phil Domaschenz for the promotion of the raffle that enabled us to raise \$1,215 to help COVID victims in Indonesia via Benih Baik. President Les Boag had the honour to present the Award of Life Membership of AIA-ACT to Ibu Ike Supomo to recognise her over a half century of active involvement in AIA. Les also presented the ANU Student Award to the ANU Top 3rd Year Indonesian Language Student, Elly Chan. Importantly, WD22 was attended by a wide range of people from many of the Indonesian Groups in the ACT and enjoyed by all who attended.

INDONESIAN LANGUAGE: Phil Domaschenz has continued his great dedication and very professional organising of the Indonesian Language Training. For FY21-22, AIA elected to continue language classes using Zoom and that has ensured Classes can proceed regardless of COVID restrictions. The skills and commitment of the native speaking teachers continues to ensure the success of the classes and again this year the teachers have done a wonderful job. During the year we have had four semesters with six classes of about 6-12 students per class of 8 weeks per semester. We provided classes at Advanced, Intermediate, Continuing Beginners and three Beginners levels. The use of Zoom and the low cost for student participation has also greatly contributed to the success of classes, which peaked at 62 students per semester.

CHARITIES: AIA has continued providing assistance to help the disadvantaged in Indonesia and assist with their education throughout the year. The main efforts have been:

- ✓ **NTA Training of Teachers Program** – AIA provided AUD3,000 to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) to support training of local teachers. This assistance is critical as the poor rural schools in the Nusa Tenggara area struggle to attract fully qualified teachers and rely to a large extent on *guru honor* (teachers with a basic school education usually sourced from local communities). The training program provides some basic exposure for these teachers to teaching techniques and the school curriculum.
- ✓ **SMA Al Islam 1 Surakarta Java** – AIA contributed AUD600.00 to help fund the education of three disadvantaged children at the school whose parents are too poor to fund their schooling.

SUPPORT TO INDONESIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT ANU: By going direct to the Indonesian Language Program at ANU, we have been able to identify the ANU 3rd year top Indonesian Language Student at ANU. The award of \$500 was formally presented at our Winter Dinner 2022 to Elly Chen.

FINANCIAL: AIA-ACT continues to be managed in a responsible and effective manner that enables us to be financial and fund charitable causes and activities that support our goals. However, I sadly report that on 19 December 2021 AIA-ACT suffered theft of \$3980.60 through a Scam and a breakdown of our financial management processes through a human error. AIA-ACT is still awaiting advice from our bank and the police upon Fraud investigation reference number C2112435363. Important Control lessons have been learnt and action taken to prevent a recurrence.

USING ONLINE BOOKING: AIA has continued the use of Trybooking for Pay online, Pay at the location and Free events (no Trybooking fee). This is an excellent aid to managing membership, Indonesian Language class bookings, and other events. For a relatively small fee Trybooking collects all the details from the registering participants and those records enable better management of events and easier accounting.

WEB SITE: We have again been fortunate to have Shinta Benilda and Damon Searle maintain the AIA (ACT) website. aia-act.org.au provides important information for members and the public and linking to events and language training for payments. We continue to look for opportunities to provide more AIA stories and photographs to display on our site and thank Damon and Shinta for their efforts.

WELCOME TO NEW AMBASSADOR: Sadly, AIA-ACT was not able to farewell H.E. Bapak Kristiarto Legowo and Ibu Cecealia as planned at the 2021 Winter Dinner 2021, but some Committee members were fortunate enough to attend the Embassy farewell. H.E. Dr Siswo Pramono arrived and became the new Ambassador in December 2021. AIA-ACT has extended a very warm welcome to Bapak Siswo and Ibu Marsia and it was great to have them join our Winter Dinner 2022.

COMMITTEE: This is the 11th year I have had the honour of being President and I greatly appreciate the willing and eager support and dedicated efforts of all committed Committee Members. I thank all the AIA committee members who have done a wonderful job over the last year, and many of them for a very long time. Special thanks to Vice Presidents Ibu Yetty Daly, Phil Domaschensz, Secretary Bill Rhemrev and Treasurer Karim Najjarine who all work so hard for AIA. It is unfortunate Ben Stern is moving to Perth so has to leave the Committee and we thank Ben for his contributions. I strongly encourage our younger members to join our committee to ensure the continuity of AIA and provide new ideas and energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Les Boag'.

Les Boag President